

9480, Fountain Square Academy

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Ft. Square Academy is a public, 5-14, charter school serving almost 300 students, located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. It is located in a turn-over area where there are many abandoned or foreclosed homes as well as new artist studios and charming antique stores. Students attending FSA come from the local Indianapolis Public Schools, which twice has been identified as the dropout factory of the nation and the worst place in the country for males for graduation (Balfour Study, 2007, and Schott Foundation, 2008). FSA has a high rate of teenage pregnancy; many of the students come from a background of domestic violence with several shelters in the area; many of the students' parents are high school dropouts and find themselves unemployed due to the closing of so many factories in the area and, many of the FSA students have been on a dropout course, themselves, except that FSA is adding a new vocational certification and apprenticeship program through its Middle College program at Ivy Tech this fall to "capture" these potential dropouts. A rich technology program will only enhance the future for these potential dropouts! This project will be based on the over-arching goal to: (1) Improve 5-12 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, based on the demonstrated need, especially in the STEM areas, focused in Elementary and Secondary Science, Math, and Reading (using Discovery Science Education; Yenka Chemistry & Physics and Pearson's Biology, Math, and Reading/Language Arts Digital Pathways; and GPS, and GIS programs from the Purdue University 4H Extension.) FSA currently has a Middle College program that it will expand with all students being expected to earn university level credits prior to HS graduation. In order to accomplish that, 2 additional goals will be addressed: (2) Assist every student in becoming TECHNOLOGICALLY LITERATE by the end of 8th grade (to cross the digital divide regardless of race, family income, disability, native language, or other previous barriers to access (Airlates, Moodle; Power Point; GPS, AP classes Lumen Projectors, digital microscopes) (3) Build faculty capacity through PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and partnership training to use innovative, yet scientifically research-based-- technology, (Calculator Lab, Moodle lessons, ELMO projections, Airlates, and Smart Sync) integrated into the Standards-based curricula and classroom instruction. The Matrix shows the goals and the related Objectives, Activities, Performance Outcomes and Evaluation Tools. All reading, science, and math programs were selected based on Best Practices and Scientifically-Based Research. FSA strives to provide traditionally underserved students with the tools and opportunities they need to succeed, to be competitive in the global workplace and to ensure their academic achievement and career preparation will be the best in the US.